HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO EVALUATE THE IMPACTS THAT THE NEXTERA ENERGY MERGER MAY HAVE ON HAWAII WORKERS IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRIES.

WHEREAS, jobs in Hawaii's energy industries provide a strong tax base and economic stability and are essential to maintaining a strong middle-class in the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the utility and energy industries in the State of Hawaii and their employees will be impacted by the NextEra Energy merger with Hawaiian Electric Industries; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to not only an environmentally responsible, but an economically sound, Hawaii that provides sustainable career paths for current and future generations in the State; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's ability to smoothly transition to its twenty-first century energy future is dependent upon the collaboration of all parties involved, from the legislative, corporate, community, environmental, and labor sectors of the State; and

WHEREAS, there has been only limited analyses of the direct or indirect impact that the out-of-state purchase of local utilities might have on local jobs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to evaluate the impact that the NextEra Energy merger may have on Hawaii's workers in the energy industries; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is also requested to evaluate the possibilities of:

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Transitioning current workers that may be directly (1)affected by the merger into new jobs created in Hawaii's renewable energy future;

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(2) Incentivizing current companies to transition into new areas of "renewable electrical energy", using their current workforce;

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(3) Incentivizing companies to continue sustainable employment for workers directly affected by the merger at a standard of living that will maintain a strong middle class lifestyle; and

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(4) Deterring companies involved in the energy industry from acting in a way that is detrimental to Hawaii's workers and the community; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that Auditor is requested to submit findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than September 31, 2015; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor.

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